

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

January 13, 2009

**Amendment to Item 14**

In its first two recommendations regarding the non-County Physician Indigent Care Reimbursement Program, or PSIP, the Department of Health Services requests authorization to cut the initial reimbursement rate to 27 percent of the fee schedule - equivalent to what Medi-Cal would pay. I reluctantly support this due to the immediate financial necessity.

The third recommendation asks for delegated authority for up to five years to cut the initial reimbursement as low as 25 percent - even less than Medi-Cal - without having to bring the issue back before this Board. There is no immediate necessity for this and I cannot support it without more information and far more transparency.

Our emergency care is essential. Experts tell us that is fragile now. Who knows how fragile it may be in five years? Emergency providers especially depend on government reimbursement because under federal law they are the only providers that cannot turn patients in need away because of their inability to pay for services. I am deeply concerned that we not inadvertently cut so deep as to cause emergency service providers to close up shop.

- M O R E -

MOTION

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve recommendations one and two as proposed; and
2. Continue recommendation three for four weeks to allow the Chief Executive Officer and the Interim Director of Health Services to report back on:
  - a. The impact that a reduction of the PSIP reimbursement rate below what Medi-Cal pays may have on the availability of emergency services, in combination with other current and anticipated developments in health care reimbursement;
  - b. Alternatives for Board consideration to across-the-board reductions in physician reimbursement rates which would more effectively preserve such services; and
  - c. Procedures to first fully air before the public, prior to presenting it to the Board, the need for any future proposal to lower the PSIP reimbursement rates below the Medi-Cal threshold of 27%.

# # #

RE